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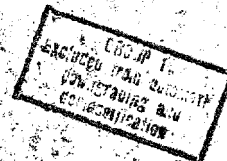
MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: The RIB Program

1. The following are comments you requested with respect to implementing the re-orientation of the RIB Program outlined in your memorandum of 25 September to the ADGI.

2. I reiterate that the transfer of the Research Division, OSI, to OSI for the first time provides current intelligence with assets in depth for research and production of fundamental political, sociological and free world economic intelligence which have heretofore been the responsibility of the RIB program. In view of these new circumstances, the RIB program can move along the lines you have indicated and, with allowance for material in advanced stages of production, essentially at as rapid a pace as is supported by the level of effort in CIA and other components in the RIB production process.

3. Your concept of the RIB provides for supplemental coverage on topics requiring a depth of treatment beyond that appropriate in a single-volume general survey. In the field of military geography, terrain and climate are other topics calling for a depth of treatment similar to the supplemental coverage suggested for urban areas and coasts and landing beaches. In the field of transportation a supplement dealing with detailed fundamental aspects of railroads, highways, and inland waterways would be in consonance with the suggested coverage for ports and naval facilities. There is active demand by a variety of users for the present depth of RIB coverage on the fundamentals of population, characteristics of the people, and health; this coverage, for which there are no other focal points, is being produced under contract by several non-CIA agencies which at the instance of CIA established special staffs for this purpose. Under similar arrangements Agriculture and Interior are producing for similar coverage for the more amiable features of natural resources, such as agriculture, fuels and power, and minerals and metals.



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4. With respect to the fundamental significance of user needs, in addition to the Joint Staff and a series of other user surveys since the inception of the Program, DIA is now receiving responses from the field commands and other Service components to the plan for streamlined and accelerated HIR coverage which I recently proposed to HIR planners and which has significant correlations with the concepts you have expressed.

5. Prior to Executive Order No. 10501 of November 1953 wider accessibility to the HIR was possible through the use of the UNCLASSIFIED classification for a considerable portion of the published HIR. As national intelligence, which draws for the most part on classified sources, the HIR is classified in accordance with existing regulations. With respect to special-purpose operational handbooks, it is noted that the sanitized elements of the Army Special Warfare Area Handbook series are quite distinct from the prior Area Handbook coverage which, like the DP/P TAB studies, relies heavily on the HIR and is classified.

6. Possible immediate publication by contributing agencies of studies prepared in support of HIR has serious implications in the field of national basic intelligence. More efficient HIR processing methods are being implemented and capable of major expansion through realignment of present GCI staffs in terms of the program's streamlining can decrease present final phase processing time by at least 50% and reduce to nominal significance any savings in time through contributor direct dissemination. This importantly, this will avoid a retrogression to the uncoordinated and often duplicative and divergent basic intelligence which the HIR was established to eliminate, and would retain the HIR review and control mechanism required to insure the kind of integrated coverage needed to serve fully the basic intelligence requirements of the Government.

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Assistant Director
Basic Intelligence

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